E/2018/24-E/CN.3/2018/37

United Nations

Statistical Commission

Report on the forty-ninth session (6–9 March 2018)

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2018
Supplement No. 4

Please recycle

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2018
Supplement No. 4

E/2018/24-E/CN.3/2018/37

E/2018/24-E/CN.3/2018/37

Statistical Commission

Report on the forty-ninth session (6–9 March 2018)

United Nations • New York, 2018

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

ISSN 0251-9976

[26 March 2018]

Contents

Chapter			*Page*
I.	Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention		6
	A.	Draft decision for adoption by the Council	6
		Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the fiftieth session of the Commission	6
	B.	Decisions brought to the attention of the Council	9
		49/101. Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	10
		49/102. Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	11
		49/103. High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	11
		49/104. Handbook of Statistical Organization	12
		49/105. Open data	13
		49/106. Household surveys	14
		49/107. Big data for official statistics	15
		49/108. Regional statistical development	16
		49/109. National accounts	16
		49/110. Environmental-economic accounting	17
		49/111. Statistics for economies based on natural resources	18
		49/112. Agricultural and rural statistics	19
		49/113. Climate change statistics	20
		49/114. Statistical classifications	21
		49/115. Refugee statistics	21
		49/116. Disability statistics	22
		49/117. Work and employment statistics	23
		49/118. Ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data	24
		49/119. Working methods of the Statistical Commission	24
		49/120. Programme questions (Statistics Division)	25
		49/121. Information items	25
II.	Items for discussion and decision		27
	A.	Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	27

B. Handbook of Statistical Organization ... 28
C. Open data ... 29
D. Household surveys ... 29
E. Big data for official statistics ... 30
F. Regional statistical development ... 31
G. National accounts ... 31
H. Environmental-economic accounting ... 32
I. Statistics for economies based on natural resources ... 32
J. Agricultural and rural statistics ... 33
K. Climate change statistics ... 33
L. Statistical classifications ... 34
M. Refugee statistics ... 34
N. Disability statistics ... 35
O. Work and employment statistics ... 35
P. Ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data ... 36
Q. Working methods of the Statistical Commission ... 36
III. Items for information ... 37
A. Demographic statistics ... 37
B. Gender statistics ... 37
C. Poverty statistics ... 37
D. Energy statistics ... 37
E. Service statistics ... 38
F. Information and communications technology statistics ... 38
G. International Comparison Programme and price statistics ... 38
H. Digital trade and e-commerce statistics ... 38
I. Statistics on science, technology and innovation ... 39
J. Informal sector statistics ... 39
K. Environment statistics ... 39
L. Coordination of statistical programmes ... 39
M. Integration of statistical and geospatial information ... 40
N. Governance, peace and security statistics ... 40
O. Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council ... 40
IV. Programme questions (Statistics Division) ... 41
V. Provisional agenda and dates for the fiftieth session of the Commission ... 42
VI. Report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session ... 43

VII. Organization of the session 44
A. Opening and duration of the session 44
B. Attendance 44
C. Election of officers 44
D. Agenda and organization of work 44
E. Documentation 45

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the fiftieth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-ninth session;

(b) Decides that the fiftieth session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 5 to 8 March 2019;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fiftieth session of the Commission, as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional programme of work and timetable for the session

3. Demographic and social statistics:

(a) Demographic statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Human settlements statistics;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

(c) Health statistics;

Documentation

Report of the World Health Organization

(d) Crime statistics;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

(e) International migration statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(f) Education statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(g) Civil registration and vital statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(h) Statistics on drugs and drug use.

Documentation

Joint report of Mexico and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

4. Economic statistics:

(a) National accounts;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

(b) Industrial statistics;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

(c) Business registers;

Documentation

Report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers

(d) International trade and economic globalization statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics

(e) Finance statistics;

Documentation

Report of the International Monetary Fund

(f) International Comparison Programme;

Documentation

Report of the World Bank

(g) Price statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

5. Natural resources and environment statistics:

(a) Environmental-economic accounting;

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

(b) Agricultural and rural statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

(c) Disaster-related statistics.

Documentation

Joint report of the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

6. Activities not classified by field:

(a) Coordination of statistical programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

(b) Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Friends of the Chair group

(c) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;

Documentation

Report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange sponsors

(d) Statistical capacity-building;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(e) Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Documentation

Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

Report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Report of the Secretary-General on the work for the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

(f) Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(g) National quality assurance frameworks;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(h) Integration of statistical and geospatial information;

Documentation

Report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

(i) Big data;

Documentation

Report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

(j) Regional statistical development;

Documentation

Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

(k) Open data;

Documentation

Report of the Friends of the Chair group on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

(l) Working methods of the Statistical Commission.

Documentation

Report of the Bureau

7. Programme questions (Statistics Division).

8. Provisional agenda and dates for the fifty-first session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Commission

9. Report of the Commission on its fiftieth session.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council.

49/101
Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators,[1] and expressed appreciation to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group and its work streams for the progress made;

(b) Agreed on the proposed annual refinements, as presented in annex II to the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, and the proposed timeline for the 2020 comprehensive review;

(c) Expressed its appreciation for the progress made in the methodological development of tier III indicators, expressed concern that some of the Sustainable Development Goals still have a majority of indicators in tier III, and stressed that the further development of tier III indicators will need to continue to advance with urgency, with particular attention to Sustainable Development Goal indicators that are critical to small island developing States;

(d) Requested the Inter-Agency and Expert Group to consider the feasibility of using tentative existing indicators as proxies for immediate use to monitor targets while tier III indicators are being finalized;

(e) Also requested the Inter-Agency and Expert Group to clearly determine the dimensions and categories of data disaggregation required for the indicators in the framework, keeping in mind the resources needed and the key principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[2] of no one left behind;

(f) Welcomed efforts by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group to improve data flows and global reporting, and also welcomed the draft guidelines on data flows and global data reporting for the Sustainable Development Goals as an initial step to improve coordination and harmonization of national and international data systems and to ensure full transparency of data, metadata and data aggregates presented in the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database;

(g) Requested the Inter-Agency and Expert Group to work jointly with custodian agencies and establish a fruitful dialogue between all parties, to further refine the guidelines by taking into account concerns raised at the forty-ninth session of the Commission and to prepare criteria for implementation of the guidelines that are based on best practices and on ways to limit the burden that the envisaged procedures may represent in terms of time and resources for both national and international statistical systems and that resolve outstanding issues;

(h) Reiterated the urgent need for statistical capacity-building for countries to be able to fully implement the Sustainable Development Goal indicators;

(i) Welcomed the recognition of the importance of data as a basis for evidence-based policies in the zero draft of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and the proposed continuous engagement of the Bureau and the Statistics Division to advise on the statistical aspects of the proposed draft;

(j) Welcomed, in this context, the proposed work of the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics, including the revision of international recommendations on statistics for international migration;

---

[1] E/CN.3/2018/2.

[2] See General Assembly resolution 70/1.

(k) Approved the proposed work programme of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, as described in section V of its report.

49/102
Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the work on the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, [3] and expressed its appreciation for the work of the Statistics Division, in cooperation with the United Nations system, for global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, [4] including the preparation of the *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017* [5] and the updating of the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database;

(b) Requested the Statistics Division to make available adequate and complete metadata and compilation guidance on the Sustainable Development Goal indicators;

(c) Welcomed the draft principles and guidelines for national reporting and dissemination platforms, and requested the Statistics Division to report to the Commission thereon at its fiftieth session;

(d) Welcomed the efforts to establish a federated system of national and global data hubs for the Sustainable Development Goals to facilitate integration of different data sources, promote data interoperability and foster collaboration among partners from different stakeholder groups, including the geospatial community and other data providers, and to improve data flows and global reporting on the Goals;

(e) Reiterated the importance of statistical training and capacity-building, supported the establishment of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training, and endorsed its terms of reference and proposed two-year workplan;

(f) Noted the interest of countries to contribute to the work of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training and its advisory group.

49/103
High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, [6] and expressed appreciation for the work conducted by the High-level Group over the past year;

(b) Agreed on the revised terms of reference of the joint subgroup of the High-level Group and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, as presented in annex III to the report of the High-level Group;

---

[3] E/CN.3/2018/3.
[4] See General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[5] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.17.I.7.
[6] E/CN.3/2018/4.

(c) Welcomed the survey and the preliminary results on assessing capacity-building needs jointly conducted by the High-level Group and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century;

(d) Recognized the need for a collaborative global effort to mobilize sufficient resources to assist with the collection of data needed to meet Sustainable Development Goal reporting requirements, especially those of the least developed countries and small island developing States;

(e) Recognized the need for stronger coordination and a more efficient United Nations statistical system, as well as the need for a stronger voice for official statistics within the United Nations system;

(f) Considered, in this context, an early proposal to establish a United Nations chief statistician, and requested the High-level Group to report back to the Commission at its fiftieth session with a proposal that further clarifies the role, seniority and functions of this possible position, among other options, taking into account what is likely to improve global statistical performance in a wider context of ongoing reform processes in the United Nations;

(g) Requested the High-level Group to conduct consultations with relevant actors, especially the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System;

(h) Acknowledged the importance of the Commission contributing to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, as stressed by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/313 of 6 July 2017 on the work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and requested the Bureau of the Commission, together with the High-level Group, to work closely together with the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council to ensure that one or more sessions of the high-level political forum are fully dedicated to data and statistics and to the needs for statistical capacity-building;

(i) Welcomed the work of the High-level Group in exploring ways to establish a financing framework for the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data;

(j) Acknowledged the work of the High-level Group and the programme committee in preparation for the second United Nations World Data Forum, to held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in October 2018, and reiterated that the Forum should provide the space for dialogue among different data communities, as well as data users such as the media, civil society and policymakers, and for the launch of new initiatives and partnerships for the realization of the data revolution;

(k) Approved the proposed programme of work for the High-level Group, and requested the High-level Group to report thereon to the Commission at its fiftieth session.

49/104
Handbook of Statistical Organization

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the update of the *Handbook of Statistical Organization*,[7] and acknowledged the progress achieved thus far;

[7] E/CN.3/2018/5.

(b) Reiterated the importance of the updated *Handbook* in addressing common challenges and grasping innovative solutions, including those relating to the production and utilization of the indicators for monitoring progress towards the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[8]

(c) Endorsed the proposed structure, priorities and content of the updated *Handbook*, subject to suggested adaptations and refinements to be duly considered during the drafting phase of the *Handbook*;

(d) Requested that the updating process be inclusive, take into account the various regional and national contexts and build on existing initiatives;

(e) Supported the proposed coordination and consultation mechanisms, including the establishment of an advisory group, to sustain and guide the overall updating process;

(f) Agreed with the proposal to disseminate the updated *Handbook* on an interactive web platform targeting chief statisticians and senior managers of statistical organizations;

(g) Also agreed to disseminate the overview chapter of the *Handbook* in hard copy version to reach the widest audience possible;

(h) Stressed the need to make the *Handbook* widely available in official and non-official languages of the United Nations, and noted with appreciation the offers of support in this respect.

49/105
Open data

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General,[9] and agreed with the recommendations emanating from the international seminar on open data for the Sustainable Development Goals, held in Seoul in September 2017, which are described in section V of that report;

(b) Noted the important role of the national statistical office in promoting data openness, not only for data under its own control, but also for data owned by the private sector, other government agencies or academia, and in this way in redefining the national statistical system to include all data producers and users, taking into account national legal frameworks;

(c) Noted the urgent need for capacity-building and training for the development of new skills to implement open data initiatives in national statistical offices;

(d) Stressed the importance of balancing the protection of confidentiality and openness of data;

(e) Agreed to create a subgroup under the Friends of the Chair group on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics to work on principles, guidance and support for implementation of open data in countries;

(f) Requested that the subgroup deliver on the proposed tasks of reviewing the principles of and legal frameworks for open data, clarifying technical aspects and

[8] See General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[9] E/CN.3/2018/6.

skills needed and providing guidance on implementation, including anonymization of data, as detailed in paragraph 21 of the report of the Secretary-General;

(g) Also requested that the subgroup map open data principles to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and address the need for principles and tools for data interoperability;

(h) Noted the interest of several countries in joining the subgroup;

(i) Requested the Friends of the Chair group on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics to report back to the Commission at its fiftieth session, including on the work of its subgroup on open data.

49/106
Household surveys

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys;[10]

(b) Stressed the importance of household surveys as a source of data for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[11] and recommended that the work on household surveys be considered in an integrated way as part of the current ecosystem of all data sources to meet the data needs for the Sustainable Development Goals, and that the strengths and weaknesses of all sources be outlined;

(c) Welcomed the work done by the Intersecretariat Working Group to map Sustainable Development Goal indicators that can be derived from household surveys, and agreed that this work should continue in order to understand the contribution of household surveys in statistical production and identify existing gaps;

(d) Supported the establishment of a trust fund for the implementation of technical coordination, methodological validation and standard-setting, and country consultation and advocacy, as specified in section III of the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group, welcomed in particular the cross-cutting approach taken by the Group, and encouraged the Group to identify priorities in its workplan and elaborate on the required resources, which should also benefit small island developing States;

(e) Recognized that many countries need additional resources and capacity-building efforts to conduct surveys to address data needs for the 2030 Agenda;

(f) Recommended that the Intersecretariat Working Group develop modules that countries can integrate into existing surveys and provide guidance on different methodological areas;

(g) Encouraged the Intersecretariat Working Group to work on updating the existing methodological guidance on household surveys with a cross-cutting focus, in particular sampling, disaggregation and multimode data collection, and taking into account specific country and regional contexts.

[10] E/CN.3/2018/7.

[11] See General Assembly resolution 70/1.

49/107
Big data for official statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Congratulated the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics on the progress made, as detailed in its report;[12]

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the products delivered by the Working Group thus far in the form of handbooks, methods and training materials;

(c) Urged the Working Group to make all of its products and services easily available, ensuring that the quality of each of those products is vetted by an appropriate advisory group whose membership might include experts from national statistical agencies, academia, scientific and technical partners and other communities, as appropriate;

(d) Confirmed that the use of big data and other new data sources is essential for the modernization of national statistical institutions so that they remain relevant in a fast-moving data landscape;

(e) Highlighted the opportunity for big data to fill gaps, make statistical operations more cost-effective, enable the replacement of surveys and provide more granularity in outputs;

(f) Encouraged the Working Group to build on the success achieved thus far by delivering practical products and services for the global statistical system to support the production of statistics and indicators, including the Sustainable Development Goal indicators;

(g) Commended the International Conferences on Big Data for Official Statistics organized by the Working Group for showcasing the latest developments, in particular the most recent, well-organized and graciously hosted conference, held in Bogota in November 2017, which included hands-on training;

(h) Supported the Bogota Declaration, which gives direction on the way forward envisioned in this area;

(i) Supported the plans of the Working Group to establish global data collaboratives and data services where the statistical community will work in partnership with technology companies, data providers and academia, including work to formulate standards and guidelines for data governance and information management;

(j) Emphasized the need to carefully address societal challenges of trust, ethics, privacy, confidentiality and security of data;

(k) Endorsed the proposal of the Working Group to further develop a global platform as a collaborative research and development environment for trusted data, services and applications, using exemplars from the Group's task teams to drive the development of a proof of concept based on a federated architecture of data hubs;

(l) Agreed that the proof of concept phase for the global platform of the Working Group should run from now until March 2020, reiterated the need to present the business case for the platform, and requested that work on the legal, ethical and funding considerations be initiated during this phase and that steps be taken to enable access by small island developing States to big data;

[12] E/CN.3/2018/8.

(m) Underlined the importance of capacity development activities, especially for developing countries, in the use of satellite data, mobile phone data and other new data sources, such as data from e-commerce platforms;

(n) Requested that the Working Group link its work closely with ongoing initiatives at the regional level, paying attention to different user needs and circumstances and trying to avoid duplication of efforts;

(o) Took note of the interest expressed by Rwanda to host the fifth International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics, in 2019, and by the Republic of Korea to host the sixth conference;

(p) Welcomed the keen interest of countries in joining the Working Group and its task teams.

49/108
Regional statistical development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Economic Commission for Africa on regional statistical development in Africa;[13]

(b) Commended the significant work undertaken by African countries, pan-African institutions and other development partners in supporting statistical development in Africa;

(c) Expressed appreciation for the leading role of the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the African Union Commission in support of statistical development, and commended in particular the work on taking advantage of the many opportunities offered by the data revolution;

(d) Supported the call upon partners to scale up support to statistics, particularly in Africa;

(e) Stressed the need to allocate adequate financial resources and technical assistance for the implementation of national statistical programmes;

(f) Welcomed the work of the Economic Commission for Africa in support of data for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[14] and Agenda 2063.

49/109
National accounts

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts,[15] expressed its appreciation for the activities undertaken by the members of the Working Group, the regional commissions, other regional organizations and countries to facilitate the implementation of the *System of National Accounts 2008*[16] (2008 SNA) and supporting statistics, and endorsed the programmes of work for 2018 of the Working Group and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts;

[13] E/CN.3/2018/9.
[14] See General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[15] E/CN.3/2018/10.
[16] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XVII.29.

(b) Welcomed the initiative of the Working Group to address important conceptual issues, some of which may extend beyond the 2008 SNA, and requested the Working Group to report to the Commission at its fiftieth session on progress in addressing issues related to globalization (including statistical units and factoryless goods producers), digitalization (including related price and productivity measures) and well-being and sustainability (within the scope of SNA), which are central to the global economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[17] and issues related to Islamic finance and the informal sector;

(c) Expressed concern at the relatively large number of Member States that are still unable to comply with the minimum required scope and detail of national accounts data, welcomed the initiative of the Working Group to step up its support to those Member States that are lagging behind, and urged those countries with a low level of compliance to develop basic source data for the compilation of national accounts that are policy-relevant and fit for purpose;

(d) Requested the Working Group to continue to issue practical guidance on issues that would facilitate the implementation of the 2008 SNA through manuals, handbooks and guidelines and the application of modern tools, approaches and technology for capacity-building (for example, e-learning) and communication tools to advance the understanding of national accounts by the general public;

(e) Noted the progress of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) data transmission mechanism for national accounts, and recognized that the implementation of the SDMX protocols by countries will facilitate data transmission and thereby significantly reduce the response burden in submitting data to international organizations.

49/110
Environmental-economic accounting

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation for the work of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, as detailed in its report,[18] noted the increased uptake and growing importance of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), and urged the Committee to scale up its work on the implementation of SEEA;

(b) Requested that the Committee of Experts continue to work on coordinating activities in support of SEEA, making available prominently on its website the super calendar, its work programme and a list of the groups working under the auspices of the Committee and the terms of reference of those groups;

(c) Supported the advancement of the research agenda of the SEEA Central Framework, and requested the Committee to develop compilation material to support implementation in countries and to advance the work on linking SEEA to Tourism Satellite Accounts in support of the measurement of sustainable tourism;

(d) Agreed with the revision process of the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, and encouraged countries to contribute financially and in kind to the revision process and to continue to experiment and test ecosystem accounts as input to the revision process;

[17] See General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[18]

(e) Stressed the importance of developing global SEEA databases based on existing national or international data sets, whenever possible, reiterated the importance of countries approving the information in the database prior to dissemination, and emphasized the need to strengthen and improve basic statistics in support of SEEA implementation;

(f) Commended the Committee of Experts for its efforts to strengthen capacity-building in countries through increased coordination, e-learning, face-to-face workshops and in-country technical assistance, ensuring that countries' needs are met in an efficient manner, and encouraged the Statistics Division to expand its support to countries, building upon the successful implementation of the United Nations Development Account project and the experience of the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services project funded by the European Union;

(g) Noted the clarification provided by the Secretariat with regard to the use of the appropriate energy statistics and balances held in international databases as source data for the compilation of national SEEA energy accounts;

(h) Highlighted that the implementation of SEEA facilitates the breaking up of the silos within the national statistical office and national statistical system, thereby harmonizing concepts, definitions and terminology across the national statistical system;

(i) Noted the strong support for using SEEA in compiling Sustainable Development Goal indicators when relevant, and requested that the Committee of Experts take an active role in the Sustainable Development Goal indicators process in view of the review of the indicators in 2020;

(j) Took note of the communications strategy, and welcomed the newsletter and the efforts to promote SEEA within the statistical community and to policymakers and other stakeholders;

(k) Requested that oceans statistics be integrated in the work of the revision process of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, and noted the interest of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Environment Programme in taking the lead in this work;

(l) Welcomed the release of SEEA Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in collaboration with the Statistics Division, and encouraged its implementation.

49/111
Statistics for economies based on natural resources

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Commended the Ulaanbaatar Group on Statistics for Economies Based on Natural Resources for the work carried out, as detailed in its report;[19]

(b) Endorsed the handbook on statistics for economies based on natural resources, and urged that it be published quickly;

(c) Acknowledged that the Group had completed its original work assignment, but noted that there is a larger area of work related to natural resources that should be

[19] E/CN.3/2018/12.

addressed, and requested the Bureau to consult with stakeholders to decide on the most appropriate work arrangements.

49/112
Agricultural and rural statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on recent developments in agricultural and rural statistics;[20]

(b) Congratulated the Global Strategy Steering Committee and the regional partners on the excellent work done in the implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, and noted with appreciation the results achieved in implementing its objectives in the research and development of cost-effective methodologies for food and agricultural statistics, training materials and the delivery of technical assistance to countries;

(c) Supported the preparation of a second action plan for the Global Strategy, with a focus on implementing cost-effective methods at the country level, and requested the inclusion of the Latin American and Caribbean region in the implementation of the second action plan;

(d) Commended the work being carried out by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics to advance methodological developments in agricultural statistics, and supported its continued efforts;

(e) Endorsed the proposed guidelines for the collection of food data in household consumption and expenditure surveys, and urged their implementation in order to improve international comparability in this area;

(f) Took note of the final draft of volume 2 of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020, and encouraged Member States to use it as a reference for the implementation of the 2020 round of the census of agriculture;

(g) Urged Member States to conduct at least one census of agriculture in the period 2016–2025;

(h) Requested countries, resource partners and other donors to mobilize resources for the implementation of the 2020 round of the census of agriculture;

(i) Welcomed the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics, in partnership with the European Commission, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the World Bank, on developing an international and integrated definition of urban and rural areas, and supported the proposal to submit this definition for discussion at the fiftieth session of the Commission, in 2019;

(j) Welcomed and supported the advancement in the definition of small-scale food producers, and requested that further work be carried out.

[20] E/CN.3/2018/13.

49/113
Climate change statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General, prepared by the Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Europe and for the first time also with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to promote the policy and statistics interface;[21]

(b) Expressed its support for the work of the Statistics Division in the development of a global set of climate change statistics and indicators, building upon all other processes in an effective and appropriate manner;

(c) Endorsed the list of activities prepared by the Statistics Division for the development of the global set of climate change statistics and indicators that will be included in the workplan to be presented to the Statistical Commission at a future session;

(d) Supported the expansion of the mandate of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics to cover more aspects of climate change statistics and indicators and to contribute to the development of the above-mentioned workplan;

(e) Urged countries to participate in the pilot survey on climate change-related statistics and indicators currently being undertaken by the Statistics Division, as well as in the planned global consultation on climate change statistics and indicators;

(f) Reiterated the importance of enhancing collaboration between national statistical offices and national authorities responsible for reporting climate change-related information to the secretariat of the Framework Convention and investing in the development of climate change statistics, in particular the underlying environment, energy, agricultural and industrial statistics, given the expected increased and possibly more diverse data requirements for the implementation of the Paris Agreement;

(g) Requested the Statistics Division and the secretariat of the Framework Convention to strengthen the link between statistics and policy, for example, by undertaking joint initiatives in the development of climate change statistics and indicators, encouraging joint capacity-building efforts and training with other partners and exploring ways to encourage national statistical offices to be more involved in the preparation of data submissions to the secretariat of the Framework Convention, in support of the implementation of the Paris Agreement;

(h) Expressed its support for the work being undertaken by the task force of the Economic Commission for Europe on the core set of climate change-related indicators, and encouraged countries to pilot the initial set of key indicators developed by the task force and to prepare national road maps for the development of climate change-related statistics;

(i) Welcomed the harmonized and coordinated efforts being undertaken by the Statistics Division and the Economic Commission for Europe in terms of methodological work and the development of indicators, and encouraged the continuation of those efforts;

(j) Noted the use of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for deriving the set of climate change-related statistics of the Economic Commission for Europe so as to allow for linkages with the economy to support analytical work, and

[21] E/CN.3/2018/14.

encouraged further consideration of the System, in particular in the context of the development of air emission accounts;

(k) Welcomed a greater focus on disaster-related statistics given the importance of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session a separate item on this topic, building on existing work in the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

49/114
Statistical classifications

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications,[22] and expressed its appreciation for the work carried out by the expert group;

(b) Endorsed the revised version of the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose, and recommended that countries use this classification as a statistical standard in the respective areas;

(c) Urged the provision of technical assistance for the implementation of international classifications in the form of training workshops, as well as the provision of supporting documents such as correspondence tables;

(d) Supported the broadening of the work of the Expert Group to classifications in emerging areas, such as classifications on gender identity, environment-related classifications and the adaptation of regional classifications, as described in paragraph 26 of its report;

(e) Requested the Expert Group to establish a calendar of the revisions of the central classifications to simplify and harmonize the revisions of classifications at both the United Nations and the regional and local levels and to avoid complications and difficulties in their implementation.

49/115
Refugee statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics,[23] and commended the work undertaken by the group;

(b) Expressed its appreciation to the Expert Group for having conducted the global consultation involving national statistical offices, and endorsed the international recommendations on refugee statistics and the technical report on statistics on internally displaced persons, taking full account of comments received during the discussion;

(c) Supported the proposal to upgrade the technical report on statistics on internally displaced persons to a set of recommendations;

[22] E/CN.3/2018/15.
[23] E/CN.3/2018/16.

(d) Recognized the challenges in implementing the recommendations on refugee statistics and internally displaced persons statistics, and expressed support for the development of a compiler's manual to provide hands-on guidance and a refined methodology in collecting statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons;

(e) Requested that the recommendations on statistics on internally displaced persons and the compiler's manual be submitted to the Commission at its fifty-first session, in 2020;

(f) Acknowledged the importance of a harmonized statistical framework on refugees and internally displaced persons statistics for comparable data within a country and between countries and international agencies, and emphasized that all data sources, including population censuses, sample surveys and administrative sources, should be used;

(g) Expressed the need for clear definitions of refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons and the need for national statistical capacity-building to support Member States in improving the quality and availability of statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons, and invited international and regional organizations to support Member States in this regard, at their request;

(h) Emphasized the need for better coordination of different data needs between the United Nations, Eurostat and other relevant international organizations.

49/116
Disability statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the joint report of the Secretary-General and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics,[24] and expressed its appreciation for the work being done on disability statistics and the achievements made at the international and regional levels;

(b) Noted the proposed planned activities of the United Nations organizations and the Washington Group;

(c) Noted the use of the question sets of the Washington Group in the World Health Organization and World Bank model disability survey and other national instruments in national data collection, and their use for the disaggregation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(d) Endorsed the creation of a group of experts for the revision of the Guidelines and Principles for the Development of Disability Statistics, including the expansion of the scope of its work to include the review of methodological instruments and the provision of guidance for the disaggregation of data by disability status;

(e) Noted that while data availability has increased over the years, there are still significant differences within and among countries in estimates of disability, and called upon the Statistics Division, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, to compile and analyse information on national practices with a view to understanding the causes of the observed differences;

[24] E/CN.3/2018/17.

(f) Called upon countries, in the context of monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[25] and its need for disaggregation of data by disability status, to choose appropriate measurement tools depending on national data needs and to examine the underlying concepts, purposes and advantages of existing relevant data collection tools and instruments;

(g) Called upon all relevant stakeholders in this field at the international, regional and subregional levels to work together under the leadership of the Statistics Division to ensure a harmonized and coordinated approach for national capacity-building that takes into account the short-term and long-term statistical development needs of countries.

49/117
Work and employment statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the International Labour Organization on recent developments in work and employment statistics,[26] fully supported the wide implementation of the new standards for statistics on work, employment and labour underutilization, adopted at the Nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, and acknowledged the contribution of the standards to the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators related to decent work;

(b) Noted the implications of the new standards on national labour-force statistics programmes, and requested guidance to develop a communications strategy to introduce the changes to users and guidance on how labour-force statistics can be used in policymaking;

(c) Urged the International Labour Organization and its partners to speed up the process of issuing practical guidance and survey tools and to provide assistance to countries in a timely manner during their transition to the new standards for work statistics;

(d) Commended the methodological work and extensive consultation process carried out by the International Labour Organization in preparation for the forthcoming Twentieth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, and welcomed the proposal to update the 1993 International Classification of Status in Employment to enable monitoring of recent changes in employment relationships, including the new identification of dependent contractors;

(e) Supported the proposal of the International Labour Organization to undertake a review of existing guidelines and standards relating to statistics on the informal sector and informal employment in close collaboration with the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics.

[25] See General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[26] E/CN.3/2018/18.

49/118
Ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;[27]

(b) Agreed that the Sustainable Development Goals provide an excellent framework to support work for the development of standardized tools and methods for producing both data disaggregated by age and ageing-related statistics;

(c) Agreed to establish a Titchfield Group on ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data to move this work forward, and endorsed its proposed terms of reference as outlined in the annex to the report of the United Kingdom;

(d) Encouraged the Titchfield Group to work in close consultation with other existing mechanisms on data disaggregation, including the Washington Group on Disability Statistics;

(e) Noted the need for resources and technical assistance to support work in the development of ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data;

(f) Noted the strong interest of countries in contributing to the work of the Titchfield Group, especially in consideration of priorities in rapidly ageing populations.

49/119
Working methods of the Statistical Commission

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the initiative and the report of the Bureau on the working methods of the Commission, with a focus on the city group mechanism;[28]

(b) Acknowledged the excellent work done by city groups over more than 20 years since their inception;

(c) Recognized the specific role that city groups have vis-à-vis other groups operating under the auspices of the Commission, and stressed that flexibility in working methods is an essential characteristic for city groups to work effectively;

(d) Encouraged all groups to cooperate and create more synergy in their work;

(e) Agreed that there is a need for the Commission to improve its oversight function, for example through proper reviews of groups after their initial mandate ends, and comprehensive reviews of long-standing groups;

(f) Requested all city groups to strive for a more balanced participation in their work, for example, by seeking adequate resources for members and the use of modern communication technologies;

(g) Called upon all actors and stakeholders to better integrate the work of city groups in their own work, and called upon city groups to make their individual working methods and outputs more transparent;

(h) Requested the Bureau to prepare a comprehensive review of the structure and functions of all types of groups operating under the Commission for consideration

[27] E/CN.3/2018/19.
[28] E/CN.3/2018/20.

at the fiftieth session of the Commission, taking into account suggestions made during the forty-ninth session.

49/120
Programme questions (Statistics Division)

The Statistical Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Director of the Statistics Division concerning the work programme of the Division, including the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division. It requested the Bureau to review substantively the programme proposals for 2020.

49/121
Information items

The Statistical Commission took note of the following reports and the pertinent comments on some of them:

Report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics[29]

Report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics[30]

Report of the World Bank on poverty statistics[31]

Report of the Secretary-General on energy statistics[32]

Report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics[33]

Report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development[34]

Report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme[35]

Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics[36]

Report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on statistics on science, technology and innovation[37]

Report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics[38]

Report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics[39]

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities[40]

[29] E/CN.3/2018/21.
[30] E/CN.3/2018/22.
[31] E/CN.3/2018/23.
[32] E/CN.3/2018/24.
[33] E/CN.3/2018/25.
[34] E/CN.3/2018/26.
[35] E/CN.3/2018/27.
[36] E/CN.3/2018/28.
[37] E/CN.3/2018/29.
[38] E/CN.3/2018/30.
[39] E/CN.3/2018/31.
[40] E/CN.3/2018/32.

Report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information[41]

Report of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics[42]

Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission[43]

[41] E/CN.3/2018/33.
[42] E/CN.3/2018/34.
[43] E/CN.3/2018/35.

Chapter II
Items for discussion and decision

A. Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1. The Commission considered item 3 (a) of its agenda at its 1st, 2nd and 7th meetings, on 6 and 9 March 2018. At its 1st meeting, on 6 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (E/CN.3/2018/2), the report of the Secretary-General on the work on the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/CN.3/2018/3) and the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/CN.3/2018/4). The Commission considered those reports in turn.

2. At its 1st meeting, on 6 March, the Commission heard a statement by the representative of Mexico, who introduced the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of Denmark (on behalf of the European Union), the Netherlands, Cuba, Switzerland, Latvia, Belarus, Germany, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Egypt, Romania, China and Peru, as well as by the observers for Brazil, Suriname (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Turkey, the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the African States), Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Ghana, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Bangladesh (also on behalf of the least developed countries), Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Turkmenistan, Albania and New Zealand.

3. At the same meeting, statements were also made on the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators by the representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (on behalf of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities), the Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as by the observers for the secretariat of the Caribbean Community and for the State of Palestine.

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 March, the Commission continued its consideration of the sub-item and heard statements made on the same report by the representative of Mexico, as well as by the observers for Jamaica, Poland, Italy, Fiji, India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Morocco (on behalf of the African Group), Montenegro and Nepal.

5. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the observer for the secretariat of the Pacific Community.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

7. Also at its 2nd meeting, the Commission heard a statement under item 3 (a) by the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the work on the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, Japan and Qatar, as well as by the observers for Suriname (also on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Turkey, Brazil, Sweden and the Philippines.

8. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

9. Also at the same meeting, the Commission heard a statement under item 3 (a) by the observer for Hungary, who introduced the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of Switzerland, Japan, Mexico, Canada, South Africa, the United States of America and Denmark, as well as by the observers for Argentina, Angola, the Philippines, Poland, Ecuador, Finland, Mongolia, Suriname, Armenia, Italy, Brazil, Sweden, Australia, Albania and Haiti.

10. Also at the 2nd meeting, statements were also made by the observer for the State of Palestine (on behalf of the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) and by the representatives of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (on behalf of the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System).

11. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

12. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (a) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/101).

13. At the same meeting, the Commission had before it another draft decision under item 3 (a), also contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur, which the Commission also adopted, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/102).

14. Also at the same meeting, and also under item 3 (a), the Commission had before it another draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/103).

B. Handbook of Statistical Organization

15. The Commission considered item 3 (b) of its agenda at its 2nd and 7th meetings, on 6 and 9 March 2018. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the Handbook of Statistical Organization (E/CN.3/2018/5).

16. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 March, the Commission heard a statement by the Interregional Adviser on Organization and Management of National Statistical Systems of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General. Thereafter, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Belarus, Mexico, Kenya (on behalf of the African States), Cuba, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Qatar, as well as by the observers for Armenia, Argentina, Finland, Kyrgyzstan, Suriname (also on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Turkey, the Gambia, Malaysia, Jordan, Poland, Ecuador, the United Republic of Tanzania, Bangladesh and the Dominican Republic.

17. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observer for the State of Palestine (on behalf of the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) and by the representative of the Economic Commission for Europe.

18. Also at the same meeting, the Interregional Adviser on Organization and Management of National Statistical Systems of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

19. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (b) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/104).

C. Open data

20. The Commission considered item 3 (c) of its agenda at its 3rd and 7th meetings, on 7 and 9 March 2018. At its 3rd meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on open data (E/CN.3/2018/6) and heard a statement by the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who introduced the report.

21. At the 3rd meeting, on 7 March, statements were also made by the representatives of Germany (also on behalf of the European Union), the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Russian Federation, Egypt (also on behalf of the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), Denmark and Mexico, as well as by the observers for Italy, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Tunisia, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica (also on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Jordan, Mauritius, Argentina, Suriname, Finland, Poland, Brazil, Turkey, the United Republic of Tanzania and France.

22. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

23. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

24. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (c) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/105).

D. Household surveys

25. The Commission considered item 3 (d) of its agenda at its 3rd and 7th meetings, on 7 and 9 March 2018. At its 3rd meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (E/CN.3/2018/7) and heard a statement by the representative of the International Labour Organization, who introduced the report.

26. At the 3rd meeting, on 7 March, statements were also made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Japan, the United States of America, China

and Egypt, as well as by the observers for Saudi Arabia, the Philippines, Nigeria (also on behalf of the African Group), Suriname, Cambodia, Armenia, the Dominican Republic, Morocco (also on behalf of the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), Haiti, Tunisia, Indonesia and Nepal.

27. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representative of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (also on behalf of the Committee for the Coordination of the Statistical Activities) and by the observers for the secretariat of the Pacific Community (also on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States) and the secretariat of the Caribbean Community.

28. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

29. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (d) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/106).

E. Big data for official statistics

30. The Commission considered item 3 (e) of its agenda at its 3rd, 4th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 9 March 2018. At its 3rd meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics (E/CN.3/2018/8) and heard a statement by the representative of Denmark, who introduced the report.

31. At the 3rd meeting, on 7 March, statements were also made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Egypt, Switzerland, Germany, Romania, the United States of America, Canada and the Netherlands, as well as by the observers for Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, Rwanda (also on behalf of the African Group), Bangladesh, Malaysia, the Philippines, France, Finland, Poland and Indonesia.

32. At its 4th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission continued its consideration of the sub-item and heard statements by the representatives of Qatar and China, as well as by the observers for Italy, the United Arab Emirates and the Dominican Republic.

33. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observer for the secretariat of the Caribbean Community and the representative of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century.

34. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

35. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (e) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/107).

F. Regional statistical development

36. The Commission considered item 3 (f) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 9 March 2018. At its 4th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Economic Commission for Africa on regional statistical development in Africa (E/CN.3/2018/9) and heard a statement by the representative of the Economic Commission for Africa, who introduced the report.

37. At the 4th meeting, on 7 March, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as by the observer for Uganda.

38. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

39. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

40. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (f) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/108).

G. National accounts

41. The Commission considered item 3 (g) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 9 March 2018. At its 4th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2018/10) and heard a statement by the representative of the International Monetary Fund, who introduced the report.

42. At the 4th meeting, on 7 March, statements were also made by the representatives of Germany, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, China and South Africa, as well as by the observers for Jamaica (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Senegal (on behalf of the African Group), Cambodia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Suriname, Morocco, Jordan, Kuwait, Finland, Malaysia, Italy, Sweden, Indonesia and India.

43. At the same meeting, the representative of the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf also made a statement.

44. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

45. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (g) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/109).

H. Environmental-economic accounting

46. The Commission considered item 3 (h) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 9 March 2018. At its 4th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2018/11) and heard a statement by the representative of the Netherlands, who introduced the report.

47. At the 4th meeting, on 7 March, statements were also made by the representatives of Germany, the Russian Federation, Belarus, South Africa, Mexico and Egypt, as well as by the observers for Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Suriname, Bangladesh, Italy, Turkey and Sweden.

48. At the same meeting, the representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (also on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations also made statements.

49. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

50. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (h) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/110).

I. Statistics for economies based on natural resources

51. The Commission considered item 3 (i) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 7 and 9 March 2018. At its 4th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Ulaanbaatar Group on Statistics for Economies Based on Natural Resources (E/CN.3/2018/12) and heard a statement by the observer for Australia, who introduced the report.

52. At the 4th meeting, on 7 March, statements were also made by the representatives of Mexico, Cuba and the Russian Federation, as well as by the observers for Guyana (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Gabon (on behalf of the African Group), Oman, Mongolia, Angola and Suriname.

53. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

54. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division and the Chief of the Industrial and Energy Statistics Section of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

55. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (i) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as orally amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/111).

J. Agricultural and rural statistics

56. The Commission considered item 3 (j) of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. At its 5th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on recent developments in agricultural and rural statistics (E/CN.3/2018/13). The Commission heard a statement by the representative of FAO, who introduced the report.

57. At the 5th meeting, on 8 March, statements were also made by the representatives of the United States of America, Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Cuba, Canada, China, Colombia and Egypt, as well as the observers for Mongolia, Italy, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Uganda (on behalf of the African Group), Ecuador, Finland, Brazil, Cambodia, Turkmenistan, Malaysia, Sweden, Nepal, Bangladesh, Guyana (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Poland, Morocco, the Dominican Republic and Norway.

58. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the World Bank.

59. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Environment Statistics Section of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

60. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (j) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/112).

K. Climate change statistics

61. The Commission considered item 3 (k) of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. At its 5th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on climate change statistics (E/CN.3/2018/14) and heard a statement by the Chief of the Environment Statistics Section of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who introduced the report.

62. At the 5th meeting, on 8 March, statements were also made by the representatives of the Netherlands, Belarus, Germany, Cuba, Mexico, Japan and China, as well as by the observers for France, Ethiopia (on behalf of the African Group), Jamaica (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Jordan, Norway, Italy, Finland, the Philippines, Suriname, the United Republic of Tanzania, Nepal and Poland.

63. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change, the Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Environment Programme.

64. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Environment Statistics Section of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

65. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (k) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as orally amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/113).

L. Statistical classifications

66. The Commission considered item 3 (l) of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. At its 5th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications (E/CN.3/2018/15) and heard a statement by the observer for New Zealand, who introduced the report.

67. At the 5th meeting, on 8 March, statements were also made by the representatives of Switzerland, the Republic of Korea and China, as well as by the observers for Namibia (on behalf of the African Group), Australia, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Finland, the Philippines, Mali and Azerbaijan.

68. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Industrial and Energy Statistics Section of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

69. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (l) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as orally amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/114).

M. Refugee statistics

70. The Commission considered item 3 (m) of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. At its 5th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (E/CN.3/2018/16) and heard a statement by the observer for Norway, who introduced the report.

71. At the 5th meeting, on 8 March, statements were also made by the representatives of Germany, Cuba, the Russian Federation, Latvia and Colombia, as well as by the observers for Chad, France, Bangladesh, Finland, Turkey, Uganda, Azerbaijan, Tunisia, Jordan, Georgia, Austria, Myanmar and Armenia.

72. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the European Commission (Eurostat).

73. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Demographic Statistics Section of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

74. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (m) of its

agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/115).

N. Disability statistics

75. The Commission considered item 3 (n) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. At its 6th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it the joint report of the Secretary-General and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (E/CN.3/2018/17) and heard a statement by the Chief of the Demographic Statistics Section of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who introduced the report.

76. At the 6th meeting, on 8 March, statements were also made by the representatives of the United States of America, Egypt, Japan, Germany, Canada, Qatar and Cuba, as well as by the observers for New Zealand, Australia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Serbia, Turkey, Finland, Spain, Haiti, Ghana, Suriname (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Uganda (on behalf of the African Group), Italy and Turkmenistan.

77. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representative of the World Health Organization and the observer for the secretariat of the Caribbean Community.

78. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Demographic Statistics Section of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

79. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (n) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/116).

O. Work and employment statistics

80. The Commission considered item 3 (o) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. At its 6th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it the report of the International Labour Organization on recent developments in work and employment statistics (E/CN.3/2018/18) and heard a statement by the representative of the International Labour Organization, who introduced the report.

81. At the 6th meeting, on 8 March, statements were also made by the representatives of the Republic of Korea, China and Egypt, as well as by the observers for Zambia (on behalf of the African Group), Indonesia, Viet Nam, Rwanda, Algeria, the Gambia, Malaysia, Angola, Albania and Tunisia.

82. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Social Statistics Section of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

83. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (o) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/117).

P. Ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data

84. The Commission considered item 3 (p) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. At its 6th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it the report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data (E/CN.3/2018/19) and heard a statement by the representative of the United Kingdom, who introduced the report.

85. At the 6th meeting, on 8 March, statements were also made by the representatives of Japan, Cuba, South Africa (on behalf of the African Group), China, Egypt and the United States of America, as well as by the observers for Malaysia, Mauritius, Cameroon, Bangladesh, Finland, Malawi, Hungary, Turkey and Suriname.

86. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, as well by the observer for the secretariat of Caribbean Community.

87. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

88. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (p) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/118).

Q. Working methods of the Statistical Commission

89. The Commission considered item 3 (q) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. At its 6th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Bureau on the working methods of the Statistical Commission: review of the city group mechanism (E/CN.3/2018/20) and heard a statement by the Chair of the Commission, who introduced the report.

90. At the 6th meeting, on 8 March, statements were also made by the representatives of Cuba and Japan, as well as by the observers for Sweden, Cameroon (on behalf of the African Group), New Zealand, Finland, Turkey, Oman, Malaysia, Mongolia, Poland, Norway and Suriname.

91. At the same meeting, the representative of the Office of the Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs summarized the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

92. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision contained in an informal paper introduced by the Rapporteur under item 3 (q) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/119).

Chapter III
Items for information

1. The Commission considered item 4 (sub-items (a)-(o)) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018.

2. At the 6th meeting, on 8 March, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico and Japan, as well as by the observers for Kyrgyzstan, Suriname (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Poland and Viet Nam.

A. Demographic statistics

Action taken by the Commission

3. The Commission considered item 4 (a) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics (E/CN.3/2018/21).

4. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics (E/CN.3/2018/21) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

B. Gender statistics

Action taken by the Commission

5. The Commission considered item 4 (b) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics (E/CN.3/2018/22).

6. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics (E/CN.3/2018/22) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

C. Poverty statistics

Action taken by the Commission

7. The Commission considered item 4 (c) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the World Bank on poverty statistics (E/CN.3/2018/23).

8. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the World Bank on poverty statistics (E/CN.3/2018/23) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

D. Energy statistics

Action taken by the Commission

9. The Commission considered item 4 (d) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on energy statistics (E/CN.3/2018/24).

10. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on energy statistics (E/CN.3/2018/24) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

E. Service statistics

Action taken by the Commission

11. The Commission considered item 4 (e) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics (E/CN.3/2018/25).

12. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics (E/CN.3/2018/25) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

F. Information and communications technology statistics

Action taken by the Commission

13. The Commission considered item 4 (f) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development (E/CN.3/2018/26).

14. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development (E/CN.3/2018/26) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

G. International Comparison Programme and price statistics

Action taken by the Commission

15. The Commission considered item 4 (g) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2018/27).

16. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2018/27) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

H. Digital trade and e-commerce statistics

Action taken by the Commission

17. The Commission considered item 4 (h) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (E/CN.3/2018/28).

18. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (E/CN.3/2018/28) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

I. Statistics on science, technology and innovation

Action taken by the Commission

19. The Commission considered item 4 (i) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the joint report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on statistics on science, technology and innovation (E/CN.3/2018/29).

20. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the joint report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on statistics on science, technology and innovation (E/CN.3/2018/29) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

J. Informal sector statistics

Action taken by the Commission

21. The Commission considered item 4 (j) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics (E/CN.3/2018/30).

22. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics (E/CN.3/2018/30) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

K. Environment statistics

Action taken by the Commission

23. The Commission considered item 4 (k) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics (E/CN.3/2018/31).

24. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics (E/CN.3/2018/31) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

L. Coordination of statistical programmes

Action taken by the Commission

25. The Commission considered item 4 (l) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2018/32).

26. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2018/32) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

M. Integration of statistical and geospatial information

Action taken by the Commission

27. The Commission considered item 4 (m) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (E/CN.3/2018/33).

28. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (E/CN.3/2018/33) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

N. Governance, peace and security statistics

Action taken by the Commission

29. The Commission considered item 4 (n) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it the report of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics (E/CN.3/2018/34).

30. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics (E/CN.3/2018/34) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

O. Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

Action taken by the Commission

31. The Commission considered item 4 (o) of its agenda at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 9 March 2018. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2018/35).

32. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General on the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2018/35) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/121).

Chapter IV
Programme questions (Statistics Division)

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 9 March 2018, and, in that context, heard an oral report by the Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs concerning the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division.

Action taken by the Commission

2. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Director of the Statistics Division concerning the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division. The Commission requested the Bureau to review substantively the programme proposals for 2020 (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 49/120).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda and dates for the fiftieth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 9 March 2018. It had before it the following documents, which were introduced by a representative of the Office of the Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the draft provisional agenda and documentation for the fiftieth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2018/L.2);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission, 2018–2022 (E/CN.3/2018/36).

Action taken by the Commission

2. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission approved the draft provisional agenda for its fiftieth session, as outlined in document E/CN.3/2018/L.2 and as orally revised, and entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it. The Commission also decided to recommend the provisional agenda to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

3. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its fiftieth session be held from 5 to 8 March 2019 (see chap. I, sect. A).

4. Also at the same meeting, the Commission approved its draft multi-year programme of work for 2018–2022, as orally revised (E/CN.3/2018/36).

Chapter VI
Report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session

1. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 9 March 2018.

2. At the 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session (E/CN.3/2018/L.3), together with an informal paper containing the draft decisions of the session.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made on the text of the draft decisions by the representatives of Mexico, Japan, the United States of America, Canada, Denmark, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Cuba and South Africa, as well as by the observers for Suriname, Ghana, Uganda, Rwanda, Jamaica, Sweden, Finland, Australia (also on behalf of Suriname, Finland and Argentina), Tunisia, Argentina, Norway, New Zealand, Algeria, the United Republic of Tanzania, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Myanmar, Angola and Mongolia.

4. Also at the same meeting, statements were also made on the text of the draft decisions by the observer for the secretariat of the Pacific Community and the representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

5. Also at the 7th meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made a statement.

Action taken by the Commission

6. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission adopted the draft report on its forty-ninth session, including the draft decisions contained therein, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its forty-ninth session at United Nations Headquarters from 6 to 9 March 2018. The Commission held seven meetings.

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by the representatives of the 23 States members of the Commission.[44] Also in attendance were observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-Member States, representatives of United Nations system organizations and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.3/2018/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

3. At its 1st meeting, on 6 March, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:
Zachary Mwangi Chege (Kenya)

Vice-Chairs:
Masato Aida (Japan)
Tudorel Andrei (Romania)
Julio Alfonso Santaella Castell (Mexico)

Rapporteur:
Georges-Simon Ulrich (Switzerland)

D. Agenda and organization of work

4. At its 1st meeting, on 6 March, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.3/2018/1.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional programme of work and timetable of the session (E/CN.3/2018/L.1).

6. Also at the same meeting, the Commission invited the following intergovernmental organizations to participate as observers at its forty-ninth session: the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics; the Bank for International Settlements; the Central African Economic and Monetary Community; the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa; the Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre; the Eurasian Economic Commission; the European Free Trade Association; and the Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne.

[44] The Economic and Social Council decided to postpone the election of one member from the African States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2018.

E. Documentation

7. The documents before the Commission at its forty-ninth session are available from https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/49th-session/documents/.

18-04748 (E) 060418

Please recycle